

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012729

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG/IEA

SUBJECT: IEA-NORWEGIAN ADHERENCE TO LONG-TERM PROGRAM

REFS: A) OSLO 0281, B) STATE 1022

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S FURTHER ASSESSMENT OF NORWEGIAN POSITION ON ADHERENCE TO IEA LONG-TERM PROGRAM. CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT IS MITIGATING FACTOR WHICH MIGHT USEFULLY BUTTRESS ANY NORWEGIAN STATEMENT IN JANUARY 29-30 GOVERNING BOARD MEETING. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE DANGERS OF PUSHING NORWAY TOO HARD ON THIS ISSUE (PARA 5 REF A).

2. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN CONCERNED THAT NORWEGIAN REFUSAL TO ADHERE TO PROGRAM ON JANUARY 29 WILL PLACE PRESSURE ON SOME OTHER COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW SUIT WITH A RISK OF A MOVE TO DEFER FORMAL ACTION ON PROGRAM FOR INDEFINITE FUTURE. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT IF IEA DOES NOT ADOPT PROGRAM AT
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THIS NEXT MEETING, THE POLITICAL MOMENTUM BEHIND IT WILL

BEGIN TO ERODE AND IT MIGHT WELL NEVER BE CONCLUDED.

3. WITH REGARD TO LINK BETWEEN IEA ADOPTION OF MSP AND ADOPTION OF AN MSP BY THE EC, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO FRYDENLUND THAT THE EIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVING OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS TO ENSURE THAT EC ENERGY POLICY IS FULLY

CONSISTENT WITH AND SUPPORTIVE OF INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN IEA. IF THE PRESSURE OF THE IEA PROGRAM IS REMOVED, THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A DECELERATION IN THE EVOLUTION OF AN EC ENERGY PROGRAM. MOREOVER, IF THE EIGHT ARE NOT COMMITTED TO AN MSP IN THE IEA, THE ABILITY OF THE UK, THE ONLY EC COUNTRY WITH A MAJOR DIRECT INTEREST, TO ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY PACKAGE CONTAINS AN MSP WOULD BE GREATLY REDUCED. KISSINGER

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